

ABSTRACT

An improved catalytic composite and process are disclosed for the selective disproportionation of toluene. The process uses a layered composite comprising a catalytically active core which comprises a zeolitic aluminosilicate having a $\text{SiO}_2:\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ratio of 8 to 50 and a relatively inactive protective mantle which preferably comprises boralite. Optionally, the composite is selectively precoked prior to toluene disproportionation. The composite and process provide improved selectivity for the production of paraxylene.